

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05435 202247Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 IO-13
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 INT-05 SMI-01
DODE-00 DLOS-09 PA-01 OIC-02 H-01 SP-02 ICAE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /077 W
-----006294 202252Z /70

O R 202224Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 566

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS SENV IWC-1 PE

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

REF: A. STATE 151299, B. STATE 153990, C. LIMA 5342 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR JUNE 19 RAISED QUESTION OF PERUVIAN MEMBERSHIP
IN IWC WITH AMBASSADOR TO US GARCIA BEDOYA TO RE-EMPHASIZE
URGENCY OF GOP ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO JOIN COMMISSION.
IN FURTHER FOLLOW-UP, ECON COUNSELOR AND ECONOFF JUNE 20
CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS WIELAND JUNE 20. BOTH GARCIA BEDOYA AND WIELAND
RESPONDED IN SIMILAR VEIN AS CHAVEZ SOTO IN REF C; NAMELY,
GOP HAS INTENTION TO JOIN IWC, BUT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TRANS-
ITION PERIOD WITH RESPECT TO APPLICATION OF IWC QUOTAS TO
ALLOW CURRENT WHALING OPERATION TO BE CONVERTED TO OTHER
TYPE OF ENDEAVOR.

2. AMB. WIELAND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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DECISION RE PELLY AMENDMENT CERTIFICATION MIGHT BE
MADE BY JUNE 23, BEFORE PERU HAS OPPORTUNITY TO TRY
TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENT AT IWC MEETING THAT WOULD
PERMIT IT TO JOIN ORGANIZATION. HE REQUESTED THAT WE
ASK DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO DEFER DECISION UNTIL
AFTER IWC MEETING NOTING THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCH
DECISION COULD DAMAGE CURRENT GOOD US/PERU RELATIONS.

AMB. WIELAND SAID THAT HE WOULD COORDINATE WITH INTER-ESTED GOP AGENCIES (PRIMARILY MINISTRY OF FISHERIES) IN AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE PRIOR TO JUNE 23. HE NOTED THAT SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HAVE TO CONTAIN CERTAIN CAVEATS REGARDING (A) THE NEED TO CONSULT WITH FELLOW SOUTH PACIFIC PERMANENT COMMISSION MEMBERS CHILE AND ECUADOR AND (B) THE RESULTS OF PERU'S EFFORTS WITHIN THE IWC TO OBTAIN SOME RELIEF ON THE QUOTA QUESTION. AMB. WIELAND PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED ABOUT HIS EFFORTS WITHIN GOP.

3. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: FELIPE BENAVIDES, THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD WILD LIFE FUND AND PERU'S LEADING CONSERVATIONIST, HAS APPEALED TWICE TO ME IN RECENT DAYS FOR A MODICUM OF PATIENCE ON OUR PART AT THIS JUNCTURE. HE HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE THE WHALES FOR 20 YEARS NOW AND FEARS THE WORST KIND OF BACKLASH IF THE GOP IS PUSHED TOO HARD AT THIS JUNCTURE. BENAVIDES FEELS HE HAS AN ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT FROM THE GOP THAT PERU WILL JOIN THE IWC AND PHASE OUT THE WHALING INDUSTRY. HE URGES THAT WE SUPPORT THE PERUVIAN EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE A REASONABLE PHASE-OUT WITH THE IWC SO THAT THE PEOPLE DEPENDANT ON THE INDUSTRY WILL NOT SUDDENLY BE LEFT WITHOUT ANY MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD. I HAVE NO SENSE FROM HERE AS TO WHETHER SUCH A NEGOTIATED ARRANGEMENT WITH THE IWC IS POSSIBLE. BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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I DO THINK THE PERUVIANS ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION UNDER OUR CONSTANT PRODDING AND AM INCLINED TO AGREE WITH BENAVIDES THAT THEY ARE ACTING IN GOOD FAITH. SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

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